

Claim 1 recites a method for redacting material from a document. The final step critically distinguishes the method of claim 1 from Anderson. The final step is the step of identifying the content to be removed, and creating a file with the identified content removed to produce a redacted document. Thus the final step is the creation of a file lacking the redacted information. This is contrary to Anderson. For example, Anderson teaches "with both annotation and redaction, the contents of the original, underlying document as archived is not changed." (col. 2, lines 43-45). Anderson specifically teaches a process of examining the security level of a user, and applying the redaction only if the user does not have the authority to view the document prior to the redaction. (col. 5, lines 5-11). The content designated for redaction in Anderson is not replaced with an opaque overlay, but is still present in the document. Depending on the security level of the user, either the overlay or the content is displayed. The method of claim 1 is advantageous; for example, the time to display is reduced by the absence of any need to apply an overlay. Furthermore, Anderson appears to be directed to modifications to an archived copy of a document. (Abstract) It would be entirely contrary to the purposes of Anderson to create a file with the data designated for redaction removed. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 2 - 3 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 4 further indicates that redacted text is not found in the document. As noted above, such a teaching is entirely contrary to Anderson, which does not create a file with the redacted document. For this reason, as well as the reasons set forth above in connection with claim 1, claim 4 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 5 as amended recites a method for designating a portion of a document for redaction by displaying all or a portion of the document, designating a geographic region of the document for redaction, and saving the designations with the document. With the amendment, the designation step includes manipulating a frame, with the content to be redacted visible through the frame. There is nothing in Anderson that teaches or suggests a frame displayed over the document with the material to be redacted visible through the frame. Anderson merely teaches an overlay with an include structure that has a conditional processing triplet that identifies and classifies the object as either an annotation or a redaction object (col 3, lines 40 -

46). There is nothing in Anderson to indicate that a frame is displayed on screen to the user, with content visible within the frame, to assist in designating the content to be annotated or redacted.

Claim 6 depends from claim 5, and is allowable for the reasons that claim 5 is allowable.

Claim 8 depends from claim 5, and is allowable for the reasons that claim 5 is allowable. In addition, claim 8 recites batch designation of content previously selected by a user for batch designation. Batch designation permits a particular content item, such as a particular word in text, to be designated for redaction at each occurrence. This batch designation is thus automatic designation for redaction of an item of information. For example, a government document may be subject to FOIA disclosure, so long as the name of a certain individual is removed. The individual's name could be selected for batch designation. Nothing in Anderson suggests batch designation. The possible addition of more than one annotation per page does not constitute batch designation. The teaching of a state register set if the default is for a user to view all annotations does not relate to batch *creation* of annotations. The method of claim 8 would be akin to automatic creation of annotations in Anderson, which process is clearly not contemplated by Anderson.

Claims 9 – 12 correspond to claims 1 – 4, and are allowable over the prior art for the same reasons.

Claim 13 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 5, and is allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 14 and 16 correspond to claims 6 and 8, and are allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 17 – 20 correspond to claims 1 – 4, and are allowable for the same reasons.

Claim 21 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 5, and is allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 22 and 24 correspond to claims 6 and 8, and are allowable for the same reasons.

Claim 25, which is new, contains the limitations of claim 5 before this amendment and the limitations of claim 8. As discussed above in connection with claim 8, Anderson does not teach or select batch designation of content that has been selected by a user for redaction. For these reasons, claim 25 is allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendment and these remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 – 6, 8 – 14, 16 – 22 and 24 - 25 are in condition for allowance. Prompt favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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For: METHOD, SYSTEM AND COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR REDACTION OF
MATERIAL FROM DOCUMENTS

COMPARISON OF CLAIMS AFTER AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS AS FILED

1. A method of redacting content from a document in electronic form, comprising the steps of:
 - selecting a geometric area on the document for redaction;
 - representing said geometric area as one or more annotation objects;
 - identifying information in the document representing content and location and nature of content;
 - representing said identified information as one or more content objects;
 - identifying content having the same geometric location as said annotation objects and creating a file with said identified content removed to produce a redacted document.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more items of information are associated with said annotation object.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the content is text.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the redacted text is not found in the redacted document.
- 5 [(Amended)]. A method for designating portions of a document for redaction, comprising the steps of:
 - displaying all or a portion of the document;
 - designating a geographic region of the document for redaction; [and]

saving the designations with the document.

[wherein said step of designating comprises manipulating a frame displayed on the document, content having a geographic location within said frame being visible to the user during said step of manipulation.]

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of associating one or more codes with each of said designations.

~~{7. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of designating comprises manipulating a frame displayed on the document.}~~

8. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of designating comprises designating all geographic regions containing content selected by a user for batch designation.

9. A storage medium having stored therein a plurality of instructions, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

permitting a user to select a geometric area on a document for redaction;

representing said geometric area as one or more annotation objects;

identifying information in the document representing content and location and nature of content;

representing said identified information as one or more content objects;

identifying content having the same geometric location as said annotation objects and creating a file with said identified content removed to produce a redacted document.

10. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein one or more items of information are associated with said annotation object.

11. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the content is text.

12. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the text marked for redaction has been removed in the redacted document.

13 [(Amended)]. A storage medium having stored therein a plurality of instructions, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

displaying all or a portion of a document;
permitting a user to designate a geographic region of the document for redaction; and
saving the designation with the document[;

wherein said step of designating comprises manipulating a frame displayed on the document, content having a geographic location within said frame being visible to the user during said step of manipulation.]

14. The storage medium of claim 13, wherein said plurality of instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the further step of associating one or more codes with each of said designations.

~~{15. The storage medium of claim 13, wherein said step of permitting a user to designate comprises permitting a user to manipulate a frame displayed on the document.}~~

16. The storage medium of claim 13, wherein said step of permitting a user to designate comprises permitting a user to select content for batch designation and designating all geographic regions containing said selected content.

17. A system for redacting content from a document in electronic form, comprising:
means for permitting a user to select a geometric area on the document for redaction;

means for representing said geometric area as one or more annotation objects;

means for identifying information in the document representing content and location and nature of content;

means for representing said identified information as one or more content objects;

and

means for identifying content having the same geometric location as said annotation objects and creating a file with said identified content removed to produce a redacted document.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein one or more items of information are associated with said annotation object.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the content is text.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the information to be redacted is not found in the redacted document.

21 [(Amended)]. A system for designating portions of a document for redaction, comprising the steps of:

means for displaying all or a portion of the document;

means for permitting a user to designate a geographic region of the document for redaction[, said permitting means comprising means for manipulating a frame displayed on the document while content having a geographic location within said frame is visible to the user]; and

means for saving the designations with the document.

22. The system of claim 21, further comprising means for associating one or more codes with each of said designations.

~~{23. The system of claim 21, wherein said means for permitting a user to designate further comprises means for permitting a user to manipulate a frame displayed on the document.}~~

24. ~~{24.}~~ The system of claim 21, wherein said means for permitting a user to designate comprises permitting a user to select content for batch designation and means for designating all geographic regions containing said selected content.

25 [(New). A method for designating portions of a document for redaction, comprising the steps of:

displaying all or a portion of the document;

designating a geographic region of the document for redaction;

**saving the designations with the document;
wherein said step of designating comprises designating all geographic regions
containing content selected by a user for batch designation.]**

----- REVISION LIST -----

The bracketed numbers refer to the Page and Paragraph for the start of the paragraph in both the old and the new documents.

- [1:10 1:10] Changed "5." to "5 (Amended)."
- [1:12 1:12] Changed "redaction;" to "redaction; and"
- [1:14 1:14] Add Para "wherein said step ... of manipulation."
- [1:15 1:16] Changed "7. The method ... 8." to "8."
- [2:10 2:10] Changed "13." to "13 (Amended)."
- [2:13 2:13] Changed ".
" to ","
- [2:14 2:14] Add Para "wherein said step ... of manipulation."
- [2:15 3:2] Changed "15. The storage ... 16." to "16."
- [3:11 3:12] Changed "21." to "21 (Amended)."
- [3:13 4:1] Changed "redaction;" to "redaction, ... the user;"
- [4:1 4:4] Changed "23. The system ... 24." to "The"
- [4:2 4:4] Changed "24. The" to "The"
- [4:2 4:5] Add Paras "(New). A method ... batch designation."

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